

Echinidæ and the fossil Cystidea of Von Buch, which are fossils chiefly confined to the Silurian region. Professor Lovén describes the animal at great length, and figures the mouth and vent; and he proposes to form for it a new section of Echinodermata, for which the name *Palæostomata* is proposed. The name *Leskia*, which I gave to the genus in honour of Leske, the echinodermist, had already been used for a genus of mosses and for one of Diptera. Prof. Lovén, being adverse to the changing of my name, suggested that I should give the genus another one, when he was in London; but the subject was forgotten. I would therefore now propose that *Leskia* be changed to *Palæostoma*.

*Macacus lasiotus, a new Ape from China.*

The Zoological Society has just received an interesting new Ape from Szechnen, in the interior of China, intermediate in appearance between the Tailless Ape of North Africa and the Rhesus Monkey.

*Macacus lasiotus*.—Tail none; ears ovate, exposed, and covered with hair; fur yellow olive, redder behind and greyer beneath; skin near callosities crimson; face whitish, with a small red spot on the outer side of each orbit. *Hab.* China.—J. E. GRAY.

*Additions to the Zoological Collection in the British Museum.*

The Zoological Collection in the British Museum has received a million of specimens since 1837, when the registration of the specimens was commenced under the charge of the present keeper, Dr. Gray. The specimens have almost all been acquired by purchase; and they have invariably been selected, primarily, to complete the series of specimens of each class, and especial trouble has been taken to acquire the original type specimens from which the species have been described, and, secondly, to show the geographical range of each species, taking great care to prevent the collection being encumbered with any useless duplicates. The average yearly increase has been about 36,000 specimens.

*On Pteronura Sanbachii, an Otter from Surinam.*

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

The British Museum has lately received a large female Otter with its cub, from Surinam. It is a fresh specimen of the animal that was described and figured many years ago in this Journal as *Pteronura Sanbachii* from a young specimen in the Museum of the Royal Institution, Liverpool, which has remained unique until the present time. The sides of the tail and feet in the Liverpool specimen had been artificially depressed and unduly stretched out by the preserver. In the natural state the tail is rounded and only marked with a rounded ridge on each side. The Surinam Otter has a hairy nose, large feet with bald soles, a thick, rather depressed, tapering tail, with a subcylindrical raised border on the middle of each side, which is covered with hair like the rest of the tail, and a large tuft of hair

on the outside of each ankle. It is a large Otter, nearly 5 feet long. The fur is beautifully soft, of a golden-brown hue, with a white streak on each side of the throat.

*Artificial Hybridization in the Genus Gossypium.*

By J. E. BALSAMO.

In the province of Terra d'Otranto, one of the most southern districts of Italy, the cotton-tree has been cultivated from time immemorial. The processes of cultivation there generally followed are well adapted to the nature of the plant, and in this particular there is nothing to be changed; but the species of cotton-tree are not so well selected; for although the short-stapled *Gossypium herbaceum* is not much cultivated, but more commonly the *G. hirsutum*, which is preferable as regards its textile qualities, this is far from having the length, fineness, softness, and lustre of the cotton of *Gossypium barbadense*, commonly known as Sea-island or long-staple cotton. During the American war I experimented upon many American varieties of cotton, particularly the Sea-island, New Orleans, and Louisiana, and I distributed a great part of the seed which I obtained among the cultivators of my province. The last two of these varieties, which, from some of their characters, may be referred to the Siamese type, prospered; the Sea-island, which is less hardy and ripens later, did not succeed. Most of its capsules open in the months of September and October; and the rains of autumn spoil its fibre. It then occurred to me to unite the two types with long and short staples, in the hope of obtaining a variety of cotton which should combine the precocity and hardness of the Louisiana or Siamese with the length, fineness, and silky lustre of the Sea-island cotton. The six hybrids and mules which I present to the Academy, taken from among many others which I have obtained, are derived from the harvest of last summer, and are crossings of *Gossypium hirsutum* of the improved white Siamese variety, and of the variety with red or nankeen cotton, with *Gossypium barbadense*. I purposely selected the nankeen, because, as it is reddish, we may the better judge of the predominance of the red or white type of the parents by the different shades of the hybrid cottons. This is the most striking character for those who are not accustomed to distinguish the organic, botanical, and physical differences of hybrid products.

Each species of cotton-tree has five petals and a great number of monadelphous stamens, all bearing anthers, and surrounding the pistil at different heights. They seem to be so many radii implanted obliquely upon the central cylinder or bundle formed by the styles. There are as many styles as stigmata, and they may easily be separated with the point of a penknife. They may be recognized by the naked eye in the form of three, four, or five delicate nervures, united together on the inside. The number of cells in each capsule invariably corresponds to that of the styles; it is therefore of importance to select the capsules which have the greatest number of cells, in order to obtain a greater number of tufts of cotton.